

## Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) Paper

### 1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
<b>Title:</b>	Serious Violence Duty Update
<b>HWBS Priority populations:</b>	Serious Violence impacts on all Priority Populations including Key Neighbourhoods
<b>Assessed Need including link to HWBS Priority - 1, 2 and/or 3:</b>	Priority 3 Supporting people to reach their potential by addressing the wider determinants of health
<b>HWBS Outcome:</b>	Outcome: People are safe and feel safe
<b>HWBS System Capability:</b>	Empowered and Thriving Communities
<b>HWBS Principles for Working with Communities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community capacity building: 'Building trust and relationships'</li> <li>• Co-designing: 'Deciding together'</li> <li>• Co-producing: 'Delivering together'</li> <li>• Community-led action: 'Communities leading, with support when they need it'</li> </ul>
<b>Interventions for reducing health inequalities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic / System Level interventions</li> <li>• Service Based interventions</li> <li>• Community Led interventions</li> </ul>
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<b>Board Sponsor(s):</b>	Lisa Townsend - Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey Tim De Meyer - Chief Constable of Surrey Police Mari Roberts-Wood - Managing Director, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (Priority 3 Sponsor)
<b>HWB meeting date:</b>	14 December 2023
<b>Related HWB papers:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Strategy Summary Implementation Plan - June 2023
<b>Annexes/Appendices:</b>	N/A

## 2. Executive summary

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This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on Surrey's delivery against the Serious Violence Duty.

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## 3. Recommendations

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The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Consider the progress made against the Serious Violence Duty.
2. Endorse the establishment of a Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Partnership.
3. Support the proposed Serious Violence Reduction narrative and priority areas that will be at the core of the Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Strategy.

## 4. Reason for Recommendations

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This is an opportunity for Board members to have an overview of the serious violence work and to consider the future priorities for the Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Strategy.

## 5. Detail

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The Home Office brought forward at the end of 2022 new legislation to tackle serious violence. The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) was ratified and came into force on 31 January 2023 across the England and Wales.

The SVD purpose is to ensure that relevant services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge to understand and address the root causes of serious violence. It also allows the specified authorities to develop and target their interventions to prevent and stop violence altogether.

The SVD aims to ensure that agencies focus their activity on reducing serious violence whilst also providing sufficient flexibility so that the relevant organisations will engage and work together in the most effective local partnership for any given area. However, it is strongly encouraged that local areas adopt a public health approach to reducing violence.

The full Serious Violence Duty guidance can be found [here](#).

### **Specified authorities with a statutory responsibility to comply to the Duty:**

The Duty requires the following specified authorities within a local government area to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence:

- Police
- Probation Services or Youth Offending Teams
- Fire and Rescue
- Integrated Care Boards
- District and Borough Councils
- County Councils
- Schools and the Education Authority must collaborate
- Prison Services must collaborate as requested

Community Safety Partnerships are also subject to the Duty and the Government have amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ensure that Community Safety Partnerships have an explicit role in evidence based strategic action on serious violence. As CSPs are subject to both the new Crime and Disorder Act requirements and the Duty, this will enable them to escalate local serious violence issues to a higher strategic level where necessary.

In recognition of the vital role schools and colleges play in safeguarding children and young people, educational authorities including; local authority maintained schools, academies, independent schools, free schools; including primary schools, alternative provision education and further education providers, must be consulted by the specified authorities in the preparation of the strategy.

Prisons and the Children and Young People Secure Estate play an integral role in protecting the public, both in the rehabilitation of those people in prisons and young children who have committed violent offences and are in custody, and people on probation or children supervised by Youth Offending Teams in the community. As with educational authorities, prison and youth custody authorities are required to be consulted by the specified authorities in the preparation of the strategy.

The Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the areas are not a specified authority, but local policing bodies will be responsible for allocating grant funding for authorities under the Duty and are encouraged to have a convening role.

### **Defining Serious Violence**

Each area should determine what amounts to and is defined as Serious Violence in their local area. The guidance makes clear that violence is not limited to physical violence against the person. It provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, violence includes;

- domestic abuse,
- sexual offences,
- violence against property
- threats of violence but does not include terrorism.

This does not mean that specified authorities will be compelled to take action on these crime types specifically linked to the Duty alone, but instead that they should consider whether violence of these kinds amounts to serious violence in their area, in accordance with the factors set out above.

Specified authorities should also include a focus on public space youth violence including; homicide, violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.

In determining what amounts to serious violence in their local area, the specified authorities must take into account the following factors;

- a) the maximum penalty which could be imposed for any offence involved in the violence;
- b) the impact of the violence on any victim;
- c) the prevalence of the violence in the area, and
- d) the impact of the violence on the community in the area.

### **What are specified authorities expected to do?**

*Strategic needs assessment* - In order to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in their areas, and so far as it is possible to do so, the causes of that serious violence, the partnership should work together to establish the local 'strategic needs assessment' – identifying the drivers of serious violence acting in the local area and the cohorts of people most affected or at risk. This will require the sharing of relevant data and useful information held by the individual organisations subject to the Duty.

*Preparation, publication and implementation of a strategy:* The local partnership must collectively develop a strategy which should outline the multi-agency response that the partnership will take to address the drivers identified in the strategic needs assessment and work to prevent and reduce serious violence in the specified local area. The strategy should set out how the proposed actions will enhance and complement existing local arrangements responding to serious violence. Part of this work may include consideration of joint funding or investment to support local early interventions and responses.

The Need Assessment and Strategy must be published as soon as possible when finalised, with the first strategy due by the 31st of January 2024. These documents must be kept under review on at least an annual basis.

### **Crest Advisory**

The Home Office commissioned Crest Advisory to work with local areas to assess their readiness to deliver the Duty and provide tailored support. After thorough consultation, Surrey have been assessed as 'preparing'. Partners are motivated and engaged and needs assessments, strategies and community engagement in related areas provide a strong basis to meet Duty requirements.

### **Funding**

To support the local partnership in meeting the requirements of the Duty and to develop interventions the Home Office have allocated each local policing area funding. More information as to how Surrey are utilising this funding can be found in section 5 below.

The funding is split between labour and non-labour costs.

Labour costs broadly include the costs associated with preparing and developing the SNAs and local strategies for the local government area or areas (which coincide with or falls within your police area), including familiarisation costs, training, meeting costs, analysis, and strategy development.

Non-labour costs include the costs associated with implementing the specified authorities' local strategy to reduce serious violence (e.g., interventions). This can include the salary costs for delivering these interventions. Funding is not for capital expenditure except where it can be legitimately used to strengthen the response to Serious Violence i.e. CCTV

Local policing bodies (PCC) are the grant holders for Serious Violence Duty funding. Reason being they occupy unique positions due to their responsibility for the totality of policing in their area, services for victims of crime, and shared objectives on prevention and reduction of serious violence.

Together, the specified authorities should be jointly accountable for delivering the key milestones of this grant, following allocation of funding by the local policing body. Joint decision making needs to be at the center of all Duty-related activity. It is for this reason that a requirement of funding is for each area to produce or repurpose a partnership agreement by the end of the 22/23 financial year to demonstrate how they intend to strengthen their local multi-agency structures.

### **Delivering the Serious Violence Duty in Surrey**

Delivery against the duty in Surrey has been split into four key areas. These are reflected the implementation plans presented to the Board in June 2023. Below are the milestones;

Milestone 1: Development of a Surrey Serious Violence Duty strategic needs assessment working under the governance of Surrey Office for Data Analytics (SODA).

Milestone 2: Development of a Serious Violence Reduction Duty Strategy for Surrey

Milestone 3: Implementation of the delivery plan, ensuring prevention activity is commissioned in line with the needs assessment and Serious Violence Reduction Duty Strategy for Surrey

Milestone 4: Annual review of the Serious Violence Duty strategic needs assessment and Strategy completed.

### **Governance**

The Serious Violence Duty legislation and guidance does not give us a proposed governance structure and allows for local flexibility. Violence is a wide-reaching term and is not limited to physical violence against the person. Because of this there are several mature workstreams and partnerships in Surrey that fit under the umbrella of

the Duty, namely the Domestic Abuse Partnership, the VAWG Partnership and the Adolescent Safeguarding Partnership.

We are pleased to have commitment from across the specified authorities to establish and Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Partnership (SSVRP). The SSVRP will provide a forum for dynamic leadership that coordinates a collaborative approach and fosters greater consistency across the work programmes that make up serious violence. This approach will assist all relevant Executives and Boards in understanding the driving factors of violence and their role in preventing violence from escalating.

Members of the SSVRP will -

- Agree and oversee the Serious Violence Reduction Strategy and delivery plans for Surrey.
- Provide strategic support and updates from their respective areas of expertise.
- Provide leadership and remove strategic challenges and barriers.
- Work as a partnership and make joint decisions to deliver the Serious Violence Duty.
- Support OPCC in meeting the requirement of the Serious Violence Home Office grant and oversee the funding allocation for Surrey.

The establishment of the SSVRP does not take away the ownership of the respective workstreams but provides the opportunity to work across the strands, sharing and linking into their respective networks and resources. The SSVRP will report into the Health and Wellbeing Board and support the priority 3 and that People are safe and feel safe. The SSVRP will also report into the Community safety Partnerships, recognising their role in supporting the delivery of the Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Strategy.

To support the SSVRP a Serious Violence Operational Group has been established, with representatives from each specified authority, focusing on the following aims:

- Oversee the successful adoption of the Serious Violence Duty for the Health and Wellbeing Board, in line with the Home Office's milestones,
- Support the wider partnership in its awareness and understanding of the Serious Violence Duty,
- Define serious violence,
- Coordinate the sharing of relevant data, insights, and information to inform the problem profile/strategic needs assessment for the area,
- Support the development and implementation of a strategy to identify and mitigate the risks identified and agree an approach to preventing serious violence (by January 2024),
- Review the strategy and delivery plan annually to ensure it remains current and is reducing violence across Surrey.



## Our approach

In Surrey we will follow a public health approach and the recommendations from the 2019 a cross government publication - 'A whole systems multi agency approach to serious violence prevention'. This approach considers that serious violence is not inevitable and is preventable but cannot be tackled in isolation. It must be addressed through prevention strategies that consider the multiple risk factors that cause and perpetuate violence such as deprivation, early life trauma and emotional and physical health, and promote the protective factors that mitigate against the growth and victimisation of violence.

This approach means violence reduction interventions are not constrained by our organisational or professional boundaries and remain focused on generating long term reductions as well as short term solutions. At the core of the approach, data and intelligence is used to identify the burden on the population, including any inequalities, meaning actions responding to the problem are rooted in evidence of effectiveness.

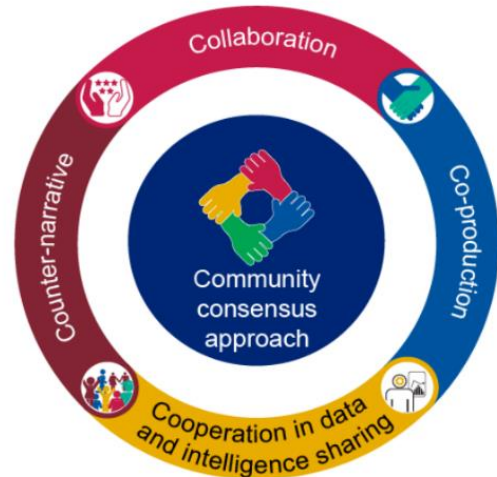
In understanding the causes and contributing factors of violence, we can deliver across four different levels of prevention aimed at addressing the risk factors, reducing prevalence and threat of violence:

- Contextual prevention, meaning we support the creation of the conditions that prevent violence. These include economic growth, social-cultural change, environmental and legislative change.
- Primary prevention, meaning preventing violence before it happens by understanding the root causes and working to strengthen the protective factors at the earliest stage.
- Secondary prevention, being an immediate response to early instances of violence and ensuring the provision of timely, tailored and effective interventions.
- Tertiary prevention, focusing on those engaged in violence by providing effective support to work towards rehabilitation.

We will adopt the five key principles of the public health approach.

- Collaboration – we will engage with a diverse range of partners to successfully work together towards the shared goal of tackling and preventing violence.

- Co-production – we will work towards a partnership that listens and reflects all local partners perspectives and importantly meaningfully involves the community in solutions.
- Cooperation in data and intelligence sharing – we will establish a data sharing process that enables an evidence-based response to tackle serious violence.
- Counter-narrative development – we will work to develop a delivery plan that creates credible and trusted alternatives for all and celebrates the strength of our communities.
- Community consensus – lies at the heart of place based public health approach and we will work with communities and groups most at risk to empower them to become involved in developing solutions.



### Needs Assessment

The first requirement of the duty is the completion of a Serious Violence Needs Assessment. To support this work, the legislation included specific provisions to support partners to share information, intelligence and knowledge to prevent and reduce serious violence (see sections 16 and 17 of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the PCSC Act). These provisions create information sharing gateways allowing disclosure to a specified authority of information held by specified authorities. These new information sharing gateways are intended to enable the sharing of relevant data where existing powers alone would not be sufficient.

In Surrey to utilise the new gateways and recognise the public health approach, the Needs Assessment was developed with the Surrey Office of Data Analytics and the partnership are on its way to completing its first comprehensive strategic needs assessment into serious violence. This will provide the partnership with some clear headline information on the levels of violence, our offender and victim profiles and looked at some of the factors that might allow violence to increase. The needs assessment and a subsequent workshop also identified what partners already consider we are doing well to reduce violence and what are our limitations.

As discussed, the legislation did not define serious violence for the purposes of the Duty but in line with the World Health Organisation's and the Government's Serious Violence Strategy in 2018, the Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Operational Group with SODA agreed the Surrey definition would be;

**'Serious violence' includes specific crime types where there is the use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, or against a group or community with a focus on place.**



The geographical focus will mirror the area covered by the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board, including the 12 local authority areas of Surrey, Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell, Guildford, Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Tandridge, Waverley and Woking.

When considering the definition and the scope of the needs assessment the Operational Group considered Surrey Police's data and requested details on the following 8 crime areas and those crimes flagged DA as the Assessments anchor data.

- Violence with injury
- Violence without injury
- Domestic abuse inc CCB flag
- Homicide
- Stalking and harassment
- Possession of weapon offences
- Robbery
- Sexual offences including rape
- Public order offences

Headline data tells us that overall serious violence, nationally and in Surrey, is rising. However, Surrey remains a safe space with it remaining the third safest force area in the country when it comes to offences involving a knife or sharp instrument with a rate of 41 offences per 100,000 head of population during 2022/23 and the safest force area for homicide rates with 3.1 homicides per 100,000 head of population during 2022/23.

The full needs assessment remains official-sensitive, and should the Board members require more details we can prepare a private briefing. Work continues with SODA to do more detailed work on identified cohorts, places and themes presented in the needs assessment.

### **Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Strategy**

In response to the needs assessment and in development with the specified authorities and wider partnership, the Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Strategy is in development. The Strategy is proposing the following narrative and the four inter-related strategic priorities for reducing serious violence in Surrey.

### **Overarching Serious Violence Reduction Narrative**

Serious violence has a devastating impact on lives of victims and families, instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. The Surrey Serious Violence Reduction Strategy provides an opportunity to work together to prevent harm, reduce the occurrence of violence, develop a counter-narrative around violence and increase confidence in neighbourhoods. With insight and data, we can co-design interventions and support which will not only reduce the violence but work to prevent the causal factors that allow violence to grow.

### Overarching priorities:

- Leadership
- Evidence Based Response
- Community Connections
- Focused Prevention

It is recognised we are not as mature in this delivery as some other areas, particularly those that have received funding to establish Violence Reduction Units and therefore by working across these priorities we are developing the foundations of a whole system, place based approach to serious violence. These priorities also allow us to give immediate attention to addressing the issues of violence in Surrey but also working on the long-term change required to secure lasting impact.

### Priority one – Leadership

Overarching Aim – to create system change through investing in a dynamic governance structure that enables the cultural change necessary to bring about long-term reduction of the drivers of violence.

- Recognise the contextual factors that allow violence to grow and impact of serious violence on communities.
- Ensuring meaningful wide engagement in the partnerships to support the local response to violence reduction.
- Develop an awareness raising programme that recognises the benefits of a whole system, place based approach to serious violence.
- Ensure we have the skills to respond to serious violence by supporting training, including specialist training.
- Establish a confident governance structure to foster a collaborative and consistent approach to violence reduction.
- Support the continued development of this Serious Violence Reduction Strategy by creating a dynamic delivery plan that works alongside our mature partnership groups.
- Develop a robust theory of change and evaluation framework to ensure the effectiveness of our response.

### Priority two – Evidence Based Response

Overarching Aim – to maximise our impact with smarter use of data and intelligence to create targeted solutions.

- Support the partnership by improving data sharing to create a wider understanding of the drivers of violence.
- Create the opportunity to gather community voices to support our understanding of the impact of violence.
- Work on a hot spot approach to target interventions within our communities.
- Develop a deep understanding using data, intelligence, and voices to map the connections between the wider determinants and violence.

- Focus on a problem-solving approach to understand the connections between victim, offender, place and time to build a rounded picture of serious violence in Surrey.
- Work with criminal justice partners to understand the complex needs of perpetrators and look at national responses for best practices.

### Priority three – Community Connections

Overarching Aim – to develop a placed based, community led response to serious violence.

- Create an awareness programme and a culture of serious violence reduction being everyone's business.
- Work alongside partners to take advantage of their community assets.
- Advocate for a counter-narrative approach that provides an alternative to violence within communities.
- Create a process that breaks down barriers and allows for the co-production of local interventions.
- Build relationships with schools, youth services and community groups supporting young people to create safe and supportive environments.
- Work with the criminal justice community to support the reduction of repeat offending and create the conditions for them to own their recovery.

### Priority four – Focused Prevention

Overarching Aim – to prevent serious violence by developing responses that address the causes, reducing the risk factors and increasing the protective factors.

- Dedicate resources to mapping what we have in Surrey to support victims and to deter offenders, identify gaps in provision.
- Develop a response to hot spot areas of violence particularly town centres, considering the link with the night-time economy.
- Support the interventions aimed at preventing young people from being more at risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of serious violence.
- Recognise the already mature partnership response to some areas of serious violence and support the further development of preventative projects.
- With more understanding of our offenders and victims look at where early intervention will be affective.

### Delivery Plans

As part of the Serious Violence Duty Surrey was given an allocation for funding for the project. This allocation is as follows. N.B the 24/25 allocation is dependent on Home Office confirmation.

- 22/23 - Labour Costs: £47,417.32, non-labour costs: £0
- 23/24 - Labour costs: £222,555.91, non-labour costs: £119,212.44
- 24/25 - Labour costs: £211,864.69, non-labour costs: £334,965.78

This funding has been carefully allocated to ensure we deliver the aspirations of the Duty. We have committed funding for this financial year to the employment of the Programme Lead and to aid the development of the needs assessment, the partnership has supported the necessary analytical resources.

With regards interventions, in-line with what we know about violence in Surrey, we have supported the Engage project which is where youth workers work with young people who enter custody. Op Shield which is a targeted night time economy partnership project to identify and reduce VAWG related crimes and a knife intervention project.

The delivery plans for the forth coming year will be developed by the SSVRP and Operational Group ready for delivery by April 2024.

## 6. Opportunities/Challenges

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The success of the Serious Violence project are dependent on a number of interdependencies and close working relationships across the partnership. Violence cannot be tackled by focusing in on one offence or not considering the driving factors that allow violence to grow. This risk is mitigated by developing a SSVRP and a strong governance structure around the Duty.

Analytical support for the project is a challenge. Work is in train to commit dedicated resource to the project using the Home Office funding.

## 7. Timescale and delivery plan

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Milestones for delivery

From 2023 to 2025 the Specified Authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey will work to meet the milestones as set out in the Serious Violence funding agreement.

These milestones are -

*March 2023:* specified authorities will need to identify an existing partnership or establish a new partnership to deliver the Duty by March 2025.

*April 2023:* the Local Policing Body is required to submit a draft delivery plan

*September 2023:* the Local Policing Body is required to submit their delivery plan

*January 2024:* development a local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) which should inform the development of a local strategy, by January 2024.

*January 2024:* specified authorities will need to have prepared their local strategy, which should contain activity to prevent and reduce serious violence based on the needs of their area, by 31 January 2024.

January 2025: the SNA and local strategy will be reviewed by the specified authorities, at a minimum, on an annual basis and updated where necessary. Updates of the mandatory products will need to be sent to the Home Office as evidence of completion.

## **8. What communications and engagement has happened/needs to happen?**

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Communication has taken place with all the names authorities required to work together to meet the Serious Violence Duty. As part of the needs assessment, where available community and victims' feedback was gathered.

As part of the delivery of the Duty the SSVRP will work alongside communities to codesign interventions.

## **9. Next steps**

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- The statutory requirements are we complete a needs assessment and strategy before the end of January 2024.
- Next steps are the establish the SSVRP and delivery plans for 2024/25.
- We will return in six months with a progress report for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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### **Questions to guide Board discussion:**

- Do you understand your role in delivering the Serious Violence Duty, if not what can the team do to support you and your organisation?
- Are you happy with the serious violence reduction narrative and priorities as developed by the Serious Violence Operational Group?
- Data and insights is key to the success of this project, how can your organisation support the future development of violence reduction in Surrey?



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